

Amendments to the Claims:

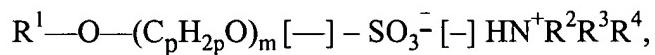
The listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of the Claims:

Claims 1-10 (cancelled)

Claim 11 (currently amended): A microemulsion comprising:

- (A) 0.5 to 70% by weight of the alkanolammonium salts of alkylsulfates and alkylpolyalkyleneglycolethersulfates having the structure:



wherein

R^1 is a C₈- to C₂₀-hydrocarbon residue,

p is an integer from 2 to 5, wherein p can be different for each m ,

R^2 is H, a C₁- to C₆-alkyl, or a C₂- to C₄-hydroxyalkyl,

R^3 is H, a C₁- to C₆-alkyl, or a C₂- to C₄-hydroxyalkyl,

R^4 is a C₂- to C₄-hydroxyalkyl, and

m is an integer from 0 to 7,

and mixtures thereof;

- (B) 20 to 95% by weight water;

- (C) 0.1 to 20% by weight of at least one oil component; and

- (D) 0.1 to 20% by weight of at least one mono- or polyvalent C₂- to C₂₄-alcohol,

each based on the total composition of the microemulsion.

12. **(previously added):** The microemulsion according to claim 11, wherein the

alkanolammonium salts of the alkylsulfates and/or alkylpolyalkyleneglycolethersulfates comprise the following residue or indices:

R¹ is a linear or saturated C₁₂- to C₁₆-alkyl residue,

p is 2 or 3, wherein p can be different for each m,

R² is H or hydroxyisopropyl,

R³ is H or hydroxyisopropyl,

R⁴ is hydroxyisopropyl, and

m is an integer from 0 to 2.

13. **(previously added):** The microemulsion according to any one of claims 11 and 12, wherein the microemulsion contains component

- (A) in an amount of 2 to 60% by weight,
- (B) in an amount of 30 to 80% by weight,
- (C) in an amount of 0.5 to 15% by weight, and
- (D) in an amount of 0.1 to 9% by weight.

14. **(currently amended):** The microemulsion according to any one of claims 11 and 12, further containing at least one of the following components:

- (E) 0 to 20% by weight of at least one surfactant,
- (F) 0 to 20% by weight of at least one electrolyte, and
- (G) 0 to 10% by weight of at least one additive, wherein (E) and (F) are exclusive of any ionic surfactant.

15. **(currently amended):** The microemulsion according to claim 14, containing at least

one of the following components:

(E) at least one additional surfactant comprising a triglyceride alkoxylated with ethyleneoxide and/or propyleneoxide and at least partially esterified with a C₆-to C₂₂-fatty acid, and

[(F)][(G)] at least one additive comprising a poly(C₂- to C₄-)alkyleneglycol having a molecular weight of up to 1,500 g/mole.

16. **(currently amended):** The microemulsion according to any one of [the] claims 11 and 12, wherein the oil component (C) contains one or more components selected from the group consisting of lecithins; mono-, di-, and/or triglycerides of saturated and/or unsaturated, branched and/or linear carboxylic acids having chain lengths of from 8 to 24 carbon atoms; branched and/or linear hydrocarbons; waxes; petroleum jelly; paraffin oils; polyolefins; silicone oils; esters of saturated, unsaturated, and/or aromatic, branched The method of Claim 20 further comprising the step of and/or linear carboxylic acids having chain lengths of from 3 to 30 carbon atoms; and saturated and/or unsaturated, branched and/or linear alcohols having chain lengths of from 3 to 30 carbon atoms.

17. **(currently amended):** The microemulsion according to any one of claims 11 and 12, characterized in that the microemulsion is a stable and transparent emulsion, the disperse phase thereof having an average particle size of less than 100 nm.

18. **(new):** The microemulsion according to any one of Claims 11 and 12 characterized in that R₄ is a C₃-hydroxyalkyl.

19. (new): The microemulsion according to Claims 18 characterized in that R₄ is a hydroxyalkyl.